

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: The Corps Network

Application ID: 13ND147514

Program Name: The Corps Network's Opportunity Youth Service Initiative

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) Compelling national data are presented on the target population: youth ages 16-24 who are not employed or not in school. Data include 2012 Kellogg Foundation data noting that there are 6.7 million United States youth who are not in school or are unemployed.
- (+) The application includes a detailed discussion of recent literature that estimates the potential cost to society of the unemployed youth due to crime, social services, and potential health care costs.
- (+) The application includes a clear description of environmental and housing-related activities Members will engage in; these include invasive species removal, planting seedlings, planting trees and native plants, and constructing fences.
- (+) Housing and home improvement-related activities Members will engage in are clearly described.
- (+) Educational activities including leadership training and activities to foster Members obtaining GEDs are clearly described.
- (+) The applicant organization has a significant level of experience in administering service-learning programs and the application includes detailed information and data on program alumni in regard to educational and leadership outcomes.
- (+) Performance targets for environmental service-related projects AmeriCorps members will engage in are clearly described as 2,700 acres of park or public land improved and 640 miles of trail improved.
- (+) Performance targets for housing projects are clearly described as the applicant states that 3,500 low-income housing units will be improved through Member activities, and that 2,625 will report improved living conditions.
- (+) The application does clearly describe how the program is evidence-based, as it is based on results from an

existing program. Information from the White House Council report is also referenced and the applicant states that the project was developed based on a finding of the report indicating that the majority of opportunity youth “see themselves as graduating from college” and “want to make a difference in the lives of others”.

(-) The target population of low-income, disadvantaged youth in the United States is not clearly described, as the number of youth in this category in the United States is not provided.

(-) The application does not include a description of the target population in the 14 states where the program operates.

(-) The description of environmental and housing rehabilitation needs lacks detail, and the application does not include information specific to the 14 states where the program operates.

(-) The application does not clearly describe the type of Members slots needed, or why the particular type of slots are needed, and how they dovetail with Member activities.

(-) The application does not clearly describe what the applicant organization and its partners will accomplish that would not otherwise be accomplished through existing staff and services.